



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Roseburg District Office  
777 NW Garden Valley Blvd  
Roseburg, OR 97471

**In Reply Refer to:**

1792(OR100)  
Vegetation Management Activities Using Herbicides  
DOI-BLM-OR-R050-2011-0001-EA

Dear Interested Party:

The Roseburg District is beginning work on an Environmental Assessment (EA) for *Vegetation Management Activities Using Herbicides*. Noxious weeds and invasive plants infest BLM-administered lands across the Roseburg District threatening native ecosystems and habitat, adjacent lands, and infrastructure. To address this problem, the Roseburg District is proposing to use herbicides as part of an integrated vegetation management strategy to control noxious and invasive species and achieve landscape health objectives. For many years, the Oregon BLM has been limited to four herbicides, which have had limited success in addressing certain target species. The BLM is proposing to update the list of available herbicides, making better, more target-specific tools available for use on the ground.

The EA will incorporate standard operating procedures, mitigation measures, cumulative effects analyses, and decisions from the BLM's recent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Oregon* (2010) and the 2007 EIS for *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States*. The EA will not evaluate the use of herbicides for the production of either commercial timber or livestock forage. The EA will not evaluate aerial applications.

We will be accepting scoping comments through **July 15, 2011**. We would like to answer any questions you may have regarding this effort and encourage your involvement in the process. It is also important to note that other BLM districts are also preparing similar EAs. Each district will be evaluating different action alternatives resulting in varying proposed herbicide use. This also prompts each district to conduct separate outreach and consultation efforts. The BLM will accept scoping comments until July 15, 2011. Email your written comments to [OR100MB@blm.gov](mailto:OR100MB@blm.gov), or mail them to the address in the letterhead above, attention: Susan Carter.

Please include your first and last name when submitting comments by email. Comments should identify values, land uses, or resources which could potentially be affected by the proposed action. These comments will help the BLM to develop appropriate alternatives, focus our analysis on salient issues and concerns, and provide the necessary information for me to make an informed decision.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jay Carlson

Jay Carlson  
Roseburg District Manager

# Scoping/Information Package

## Vegetation Management Activities Using Herbicides

### DOI-BLM-R050-2011-0001-EA

#### Roseburg District

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Roseburg District is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the impacts of herbicide treatments that will be used to slow the spread of noxious and other weeds and invasive plants.

### Purpose and Need

Herbicides are one of several tools used by the District to control noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation to achieve landscape health objectives. The EA will update and replace the District's 1995 vegetation management EA, and will allow the District to use 14 herbicides in its vegetation treatment programs. The EA is scheduled to be completed in spring 2012.

The EA will tier to the recently completed *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD), which addressed the use of up to 14 herbicides in western Oregon. Under the ROD, these herbicides cannot be applied aerially in western Oregon, and cannot be used for commercial timber enhancement or livestock forage production. Because the ROD was a programmatic decision, however, specific projects must still undergo site-specific analysis and decision making at the field level.

### Proposed Action

The EA will identify and analyze the site-specific effects of alternative actions for treating noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation to restore ecosystem health in the Roseburg District. In addition to evaluating the site-specific effects of using herbicides, the EA will also evaluate the site-specific effects of other methods of land restoration, including mechanical, manual, and biological treatments.

### Background

The Roseburg District manages about 425,000 acres of public lands in Oregon, of which about 10,000 acres are infested with noxious and other weeds and invasive vegetation. The District treats approximately 2,500 acres of weeds and invasive vegetation each year. Of those, about 2,000 acres are treated with herbicides and the remaining 500 acres are treated using non-herbicide methods, including manual, mechanical, and biological (insects) control methods and fire use for resource objectives.

Currently, the Roseburg District uses only four herbicides approved for use in Oregon. Being able to use 10 new, additional herbicides will give the District access to a broad array of



herbicides that are more target-specific and effective than the four herbicides it is currently utilizing. Used in combination with other management practices, herbicide treatments can slow the spread of noxious and other weeds and invasive plants, which in turn helps to restore ecosystem health and watershed functions.

In addition to using the 14 herbicides evaluated in the EA, the District may be allowed to use new chemicals that are developed in the future. These herbicides could only be used if they are: (1) registered for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; (2) used for and at application rates specified on the label directions; and (3) determined to be safe to humans and the environment based on a toxicological and environmental impacts analysis of the herbicides by the BLM.

### **Public Scoping**

Public scoping for the EA planning process will occur from **June 15 to July 15, 2011**. In early June, a news release was distributed to the media, interested groups, and state agencies notifying them of the planning and scoping process.

Further information about the Roseburg District EA can be found on the web at the following address:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg/plans/vegea.php>

Environmental Assessments are also being prepared by the eight other BLM Districts in the state as part of their planning processes for the use of herbicides. While these EAs will be done concurrently, each will be District-specific.

The BLM will be seeking public comments on this planning effort throughout the scoping period, which runs through **July 15, 2011**. Comments on the Roseburg District EA can be submitted by mail to: Susan Carter, District Weed/Invasive Plant Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg District Office, 777 Garden Valley Road, Roseburg, Oregon, 97471; by electronic mail (email) to [or100mb@blm.gov](mailto:or100mb@blm.gov); by facsimile to (541) 440-4948; in person at the Roseburg District BLM office; or at the following public meeting:

**Open House – June 27, 2011, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Roseburg District Office, 777 NW Garden Valley Blvd, Roseburg OR, 97471**

A summary of the proposal and comment forms will be provided at the meeting and at the BLM Roseburg District office for the public to learn more about the proposal and to submit written comments.

Written comments should be received by **July 15, 2011**, to ensure consideration. The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposal during public comment periods



associated with the Draft EA, which should be available in spring 2012. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

